

Amendments to the Specification:

Applicant presents replacement paragraphs below indicating the changes with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with:

[0034] As introduced above, the success of a peer-to-peer (P2P) protocol depends on the protocol's ability to establish valid connections between selected entities. Likewise, the formation of groups in such a P2P network relies on this ability. Because a particular user may connect to the network in various ways at various locations having different addresses, a preferred approach is to assign a unique identity to the user or the group, and then resolve that identity to a particular address or addresses through the protocol. Such a peer-to-peer name resolution protocol (PNRP) to which the group security infrastructure of the instant invention finds particular applicability is described in co-pending Application No. 09/942,164, entitled Peer-To-Peer Name Resolution Protocol (PNRP) And Multilevel Cache For Use Therewith, filed on August 29, 2001, and in co-pending Application No. [[_____]] 09/955,923, entitled Peer-To-Peer Group Management and Method For Maintaining Peer-To-Peer Graphs, filed on even date herewith, the teachings and disclosure of which are hereby incorporated in their entireties by reference thereto. However, one skilled in the art will recognize from the following teachings that the group security infrastructure and methods of the present invention are not limited to the particular peer-to-peer protocol of these co-pending applications, but may be applied to other protocols with equal force. Likewise, co-pending Application No. [[_____]] 09/956,260, entitled Peer-To-Peer Name Resolution Protocol (PNRP) Security Infrastructure And Method, filed on even date

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herewith, describes an underlying security infrastructure that ensures that the identities of the various entities within the network are valid, without unnecessary burdening the network with excess traffic. The teachings and disclosure of this application are also incorporated in their entirety by reference thereto.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with:

[0054] As an example of a peer invitation when the group creator already knows the public keys of those he wishes to invite as members we turn to FIG. 3. In this example assume that the Owner first invites member U1. Once this process is started 210, the Owner creates a Group certificate 212 containing the ~~User's~~ member's (U1) public key signed with the Group Private Key. This can be represented as $(P_{U1})K_G$. The Owner then sends 214 the invitation to U1 via email. This invitation mail contains a URL containing the Group PNRP ID and certificate. This may be represented as $O1 \rightarrow P2P://PNRP_ID_OF_GROUP; cert=(P_{U1})K_G \rightarrow U1$. This ends the peer invitation phase 216.

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